Karnat... Archives
Nam...
3 E...

ter security afforded to life and property ; the
d to follow of an increasing percentage of
nding on land, of a progressive decrease in
dings and of a gradually lowering standard of
average size of a holding in India, as a whole, is
± acres, in Bengal it is as low as two and in this State
which is for the larger part a dry land tract, and where
size of a holding should be about 30 acres, it is no more
For an average to be so low as 2 or 7 acres, there
very large number of holdings below these figures,
ust be the condition of the families supported by
cially in the years when the rainfall is deficient or

Disease.

The statement that an increasingly large percentage of
he population has not enough food to eat, is only too true.
condition of semi-starvation must tell on their
must predispose them to disease, must make them
easily victims to malaria, hook-worm and other
The deaths from malaria annually is over a
nd those who survive the attack are left weak and
Hook-worm is even more prevalent. The recent
of the campaign against this parasite shows that no
s than 80% of the people examined harboured the
parasite. That the disease predisposes the patient to
lethargy and anaemia is well known. It was conditions like
these that led to the death of not less than 6 millions in
influenza epidemic of 1918.

Malnutrition.

is is sad enough. We have had recently light shed
problem from a third source which makes
heartening. The researches by
Russel have shown that the
deficient nutrition. That is
e classes of the population th.
e proper maintenance of heal.
portion. It is obvious when peop.
o fill their stomach, they cannot exer-
regard to its quality.

chool each for the 30,000 villages in the State,
no more than Rs. 100 for each building, no
lakhs ; at Rs. 100 a year, for one teacher for
would require 30 lakhs recurring expenditure.
ge slice off the revenue, but assuming that we
the money, where are the 30,000 teachers to come
om? They cannot be trained in a day. For their training
ou would require several institutions. But grant that the
rs are also found, can we be certain that large numbers
nd to the call of education? I am, by no means,
The average ryot objects to the education of his
because he wants their services during the busy
f the year. What is more, he is suspicious of the
education we give as tending to render his children
ft to handle the plough and as tempting them to
desert the furrow for the factory or office in the town. He
has himself had too little of education to appreciate its
ue and he does not believe he is unfair to his son in
ing him of the opportunity of learning the three R's.
re let us grant for one moment that the children in
ge are educated ; we cannot say how many of them
to their knowledge. In the dull atmosphere of the
n the wearisome monotony of life there, the likelihood
many of the educated who choose to remain in the
lage will lapse back into illiteracy and to the extent of
that lapse the money spent on their education is a waste.

Far be it from me to suggest that for these reasons it is better that we abandon a forward policy in primary education. In the chain of obstacles and difficulties that fetter the activities of the ryot, illiteracy is certainly the one link h can be broken with the least difficulty. We should effort or money but let us not expect too much from forget that the forward policy in primary educa-
pursued for several decades, long h
ot resulted in any striking adv
us not forget too that there
acy in the good old days wh
Rule, when the pulsations o.
and quicker, when village assemb.
untryside presented a picture of villages

Imperfect Diagnosis.

These are facts of very grave import. which must be within the knowledge of all ed in the welfare of the people. I have m here to-day not so much to reiterate them as to the fact that the character of remedial measures tak far by the Government or private agencies, has been determined more or less by the analytical character of diagnosis. We have treated these problems as if detached and isolated and not the facets of on same problem, as if they are diseases each in not the symptoms of one complex ailment. If sa defective, we say, 'let us improve sanitation.' If malaria, we plan to destroy the breeding places o mosquito. If agriculture is primitive, we try to introduc scientific agriculture. If the ryot is in the grip of the money-lender, we start co-operative credit societies. there is illiteracy, we introduce primary education. department after department ; measures upon measur yet progress is, out of all proportion, to the mon By far the greatest number of villages are still in a tary condition. Malaria is spreading rather than ing. The ryot is still in the grip of the money-le literacy has crept only to 7%. And on the varied ser Government is already spending many lakhs of its tota revenue. For further expansion more money is required and that means additional taxation where the taxes have already reached the full taxable capacity of the people.

The progress of these various Nation-Building Departments is so slow, because progress in any one direction limited by the progress in each of the other lines of ad You cannot progress far in sanitation, in th norance and prejudice of the communit o-operative movement is retarde ople. Scientific agriculture i servatism and prejudice and istration and propaganda. W ent of most of these difficulties inclined to introduce free and compu But even in this limited field progress

as busy as hives, when the ancestors of the present half-starved peasantry lived and died a many of them had education then and not the shadows their descendants are now. make too much of education. So far as c changed and become modernized, a large perc literacy among the people is not only desirable but neces but education by itself will fail to rehabilitate our rural life.

The Root Causes.

What other course is left to us? The analy have made so far of village conditions is helpful. That is the trouble with analysis of and figures. Let us then proceed to analyse fr different standpoint—from the standpoint of the disintegration of village institutions. Let us start from the days the villages were autonomous units, when the villagers acte as members of a corporation and maintained the discip required for a corporate life. At that time, the assemblies functioned, they had their elections, h committees to look after tanks and roads, chari endowments, and sanitation, they had their staff of paid out of the grain heap including the carpenter, wa the thoti, they had the accountant and the headman. villagers levied and collected their own tax, collected the taxes levied by the king and paid them into his treasury. They settled their boundary disputes themselves or with the aid of neighbouring villagers. They administered justice in regard to all petty offences. They met the officers of the king as a corporate body. These were considerable powers the exercise of which developed their sense of self-resp their civic consciousness and their individuality. Th are long past. The advent of the British, th digenous institutions, the need they eir power, resulted in a policy ion and decay of these in s introduced, the worst was ing revenue. It cut into the cor e each *pattadar* independent of o drew him in abject dependence to the

ment dealt with him directly, not the village as
does not understand the complications of
nd Survey Rules. His grievances are heard
through vakils who have to be paid heavy
sions are given perhaps in accordance with Law
of them not in keeping with the best opinion of the
age on the subject. The requirements of the Evidence
Act have often to be met by subterfuges, some of them costly,
demoralising. The individual ryot is thus brought
face with a colossal machinery, mechanical in its
and relentless in its processes. The assembly of
is not recognized, the rights of the servants of
have been ignored. That they owe their services
villagers have been disputed. The headman of the
age is now a servant of the Government. In place of
the village police, others have been introduced invested with
considerable powers which they often exercise to the humili-
on of the ryot and which they sometimes threaten to
unless the ryot submits to his exactions. So with
tty officials who take advantage of the ignorance
lessness of the ryot in exacting fees for services
overnment have intended to be free, in levying
s' against possible entanglements in the meshes of
and Criminal Law.

The Old Aristocracy.

These are more than enough for dissolution and decay but the processes do not stop there. In the days of Hindu Rule, there was an aristocracy remote from towns whose properties were prevented from disintegration because only descent by the Law of primogeniture permitted. They were men of exceptional talents ceived as gifts tracts of land or villages. They
d in various ways in the administration or de
They were trusted councillors
were so many centres from
eighbourhood. Their prese
of rural life. They presi
bullocks and buffaloes where
deserving. They invited dramat.
give performances under their auspices

e of them tyrannize over their neighbourhood.
portunities of enjoyment in the towns where
luxuries and vices, their ill-gotten wealth.
ever, a good number who survive these tempta-
presence is beneficial to their neighbourhood.
a class, they might have been made far more use-
rul and refined to higher purposes. They might have, by
ir presence, improved the attractions of rural life, might
en persuaded to be more useful, more helpful mem-
e community.

The Results.

e absence of a high-minded and respected nobility,
ecay and dissolution of village organizations, in the
d processes of a compulsory individualism, unsuited to
ural needs and therefore capable of producing in the villages
the worse, not the better, of its features, the peasantry has
come demoralized and debased. The village is now full
tions. Concerted action is beyond them. Organiza-
discipline, the consciousness of civic responsibilities
s of the past. These are the causes at work to
villagers what they are. These are the causes
ke the progress of beneficent measures by Govern-
slow, which make ryots so distrustful of Government
s and which make them look upon the Sircar as a
tyranny with which the less they deal the better. Restore
to them their self-respect, revive their personality which now
lies crushed and broken under the dead weight of officialdom,
the ryot will respond better to the generous measures of
Government.

The Mysore Panchayet Regulation.

this connection, I should like to pay a tribute to the
ess of the framers of the Panchayet Act that has
ced in the Statute Book in Mysore. As
I could not help thinking th
the sequence of events that
deal they had in mind was, a
istakes of the past and to re
nt village institutions that I
hat Act is the first of its kind in
attempt at rural rehabilitation. But it

will not go far in spite of the intentions of the
in spite of the Inspectors they have appoint
in the future, the villagers may realize the
good in the scheme. If we are to speed u
should have an agency to galvanize rural life.

The existing agencies seek to cure the villager
physical and economic ills. They do little to endow him
with the vigour and stamina required to successfully re
those ills. They leave untouched the more vital prob
moral prostration. Nor could official agencies be e
to conform to set regulations and rules, having be
the powers and prestige of Government and temp
prevailing ignorance and apathy of the villager to
on them at the slightest provocation, take in ham
strengthening of the moral fibre of our peasantry. Rules an
regulations however well-meant will tend to be mechanical in
operation. What the villager needs is human sympathy an
understanding, the irradiation of a subtler influence
will travel along his paralysed nerves, soothe and
them to action; those gentler services and mini
that will revive hopes in him and make him realiz
has yet a part to play by no means ignoble in the li
people as a whole. And who could do this but a
young men devoted to the cause of rural improvement,
hearts warm toward the peasantry, and who would treat them
as brethren, live with them and share with them their joys and
sorrows, with no ambition other than their welfare, with no
interest at heart but theirs, with no powers but those of
sweet persuasion? A life of selfless and devoted service to
them and spent amidst them will exert the most beneficial
influence on the village folk. No advice proceeding f
that source will go unheeded and no warning neglec

Lines of Rural Service

a man actuated by these ide
Hobli who could help the r
n all matters affecting the vi
ation, maintenance and repai
pair of tanks, the establishment o
for credit, for purchase and sale of

to which the whole countryside was welcome
temples, caravansaries, and constructed tanks
opportunities for country-folks to listen to
Ramayana and *Mahabharata*. Respecte
citizens of the State and associated in various
administration, they felt they had responsibilities
charge towards the humbler folk around them. They set a
high standard of behaviour, a high standard of living
relieved by their stature the evenness of country li
most parts of the country the British did not unde
were suspicious of this aristocracy as points round
content may gather. Whether from ignorance or
ordinary processes of Hindu Law were allowed to o
regard to these properties with the result that, in the
of a few generations, the aristocracy disappeared and the
properties became reduced to the level of other properties
in the neighbourhood. The old ties of obligation an
service, which kept the peasantry bound to the aristo
in love and affection, disappeared.

The New Aristocracy.

The new aristocracy, the rack-renting landh
have come in their place, have failed to comman
respect or influence. Even these might have be
fined to a higher level of nobility and service had th
been invested with any responsibility in the administra-
tion of the country and had they any influence to wield
with the Government. Neglected by the Government, not
required by them in any administrative connection, as
for instance as Justices of the Peace, they have, as a
rule, failed to take advantage of the opportunities for ed
cation. They are resentful of Government becaus
petty officer whose income may be no more than
theirs, whose family had no status
unity, may, invested with po
tions that no self-respecting
scape these now by various
al officials in good humour by
or securing for their adherents
actions with them are involved. It
are bitter, that they feel no obligation

ompose their differences, settle their disputes,
m the requirements of Revenue and Criminal
g them and their interests, stand between
tyranny of petty officials, can rouse and
intellectual interest by appropriate readings
ature which are likely to appeal to them ; if the man
dispense medical aid for ordinary ailments and render
aid ; if these services can be brought to the village by a
devoted to a life of service to them, our rural popula-
then beat with the pulsations of a new life. Our
work with the vigour of a new-found hope and
no longer be any of that moral prostration which
oot of the present decay and dissolution of rural

An Institute for Training.

But where can we get men with the requisite training? This can be given in an Institute where the students recruited bout the S.S.L.C. stage will undergo a training of three The Institute must be located away from the influ- towns and have an agricultural farm where the more than the theory of scientific agriculture can be The students should also be taught first aid, the g of medicine in ordinary diseases, the principles of ative credit, of grading and marketing of goods, of e storage of grains, village economics, the main principles of Revenue and Survey Law, Cottage Industries and all other things that are likely to be useful or helpful to the ryots. On the completion of training, they should settle down in the headquarters of hoblies to begin with, in quarters provided for them, and they will be paid a salary of 20 to 30 with additional increment of Rs. 2 for every orn. They must bind themselves to serve for a least 20 years and to hold themselves neutral in eligious disputes.

brief outline, is the scheme.
omed to the services of a mis
be sceptical as regards the
ely to be attracted to a life o
is a slur on our young men to s
rvice has no attractions to them. I am

een the governing principles of his glorious reign.

Conclusion.

lusion, let me reiterate once more the import- rural life as a factor in national life and progress. elieve me, Rural Life revived is National Life vitalized. eve me, our peasantry forms the backbone of the people, ducing part of it and any measures that we adopt m on their feet, to revive in them the sense of t, their civic consciousness, will be immediately n the prosperity, the strength and vigour of the s a whole. The energies of no less than 250 ns of the Indian population now lie stagnant, frozen d inert like the eternal snows of the Himalayas. They have to melt under the sunshine and warmth of a beneficial fluence if our national life now almost run dry is to course ard with the sweep, majesty and irresistible force of a river.

details of the scheme sketched below may be or supplemented but not at the risk of the princi- lf-sacrifice which is the most important feature of nization proposed.

A Draft Scheme for Rural
in Mysore.

An organization for Rural Service be formed in
consisting of men who have the requisite training
that training and bind themselves to devote the
the cause of rural welfare and rehabilitation.

An Institute for training men in Rural Servic
be built in the centre of a kaval released for the pur
by Government ; the kaval to be fertile, suited for agricultur
and located away from towns but having villages in the
neighbourhood.

2. The Institute may be called the "Sri Kris
jendra Silver Jubilee Institute of Rural Service."

3. Courses, Apparatus and other equipmen
provided in the Institute for training in the followi

(1) Principles of Co-operation for credit, for
and marketing of goods, for purchase o
dagers' requirements.

(2) Scientific Agriculture including Animal Husbandry,
Veterinary Science and Dairying.

(3) First Aid.

(4) Medical Aid including dispensing of medicines in
ordinary ailments.

(5) Village Sanitation.

(6) Revenue and Survey Law as affe
also Criminal Law.

Principles of Hinduism,
Christianity.

) Cottage Industries as Cha

(9) Village Sports.

(10) Economic History of modern

sure if a permanent organization can be forme
programmes of national service can be carrie
of salaries adequate to a simple life, th
wanting young men to come forward to meet
ments. If there are any who are sceptical of
such an organization, I will ask them to observe the
which foreign missionaries have made their home and
note the beneficial effect of their presence in the improved
sanitation of the village, in the healthier, cleaner li
the people and in the generally improved atmosph
whole. If a foreign missionary, alien in faith, a
civilization, could effect that transformation,
easier should it be for men who are of the same fai
same civilization, who have had the same past, sha
same tribulations and have to look forward to the sa
future?

A Silver Jubilee Memorial.

"Yes. What about the money required?" I p
asked. I suggest that the Jubilee collections am
to Rs. 3 lakhs, I believe, be made over with an e
amount from the Government to a Trust compose
officials who are to administer the funds till such
body of competent men with experience arise from
the trained men I have described. The Government sho
also release one of their fertile kavals for the farm to be
run with the Institute. The Institute should be under the
control of a man selected by Mahatma Gandhi and the
staff should consist of tried and tested men who agree to
consecrate their lives to rural service. The Institute may be
named "The Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Institute
Rural Service."

Appropriateness of the Memori

About the appropriateness of the
le. I do not believe one
riate which will commemor
reign of our beloved Mah
a wider appeal or more vitall
ne people as a whole. None, I ven
the heart of His Highness or embo

...stitute should be under the direction and ...perintendent selected for his personality, ...sacrifice, and capacity for organization. ...hi may be requested to make the selection.

...until men of the right type with rural experience ...be selected from among the men trained in the Institute, ...rangements for teaching at the Institute may be made with ...ads of the various technical departments concerned ... pensioned officers. So far as possible, however, ... should be given to men who will stay perma- ...e Institute and submit to the discipline there.

...ional staff required will consist of men who ... the requisite qualifications and who agree to form ...of the organization accepting its ideals of sacrifice and service. In consideration of the fact that they join the ...ganization later in life and have responsibilities and ...ns not limited at the start with reference to a life of ... they may be paid a salary of Rs. 75 to 100.

...o begin with, 20 men may be taken each year who ...themselves to serve as part of the organization for ...f at least 25 years. The number to be increased ...are available. On completion of training which ...end over three years, the men are to be stationed at ...e Headquarters of hoblies in quarters provided for the purpose, free of charge and suitably equipped for the work they have to do. The men may be paid a salary ranging from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30. An addition of Rs. 2 for every child born may also be given.

7. They should bind themselves to keep above caste ... and factions and to remain neutral in all religious ...pect creeds and faiths other than their own. ...ceive any gifts other than flowers and fruits ...presented. All other gifts shall ...nization.

...sist of organizing the villa... ...n the welfare of the village ..., repair of tanks, epidem... ...orage of grains, co-operation as ...eting, purchase and sale of goods

and credit. They must organize them... exactions by petty officers, against humiliatio... them, facilitate by their advice all tra... Government, act as *liaison* officers between... the Government in all matters requiring advice... cal departments, help to establish cottage industries... the intellectual interests of the villagers by appropriate... discourses and exhibiting educative films, help to establish... harmonious relations between landlords and tenants... villagers for ordinary ailments and render first ... necessary.

8. The Jubilee collections or such amount ... can be spared may, with an equivalent amount, ... over to a Trust consisting of non-officials who, after pro... for the capital expenditure required for the scheme as ou... lined above, will invest the remainder in proper securities... and spend the interest thereon for the maintenance of t... Institute, the salaries of the staff and on other expend... that may be necessary. On the expiry of ten years th... should be reconstituted with men selected from am... members of the Organization itself but may have a... its members from among non-official outsiders nomi... Government or selected by the Organization itself.

9. The kaval in which the Institute is located... be converted into a Farm run on the most economic and... scientific lines where the students may acquire a practical... knowledge of Scientific Agriculture in all its aspects includ... ing Dairying, Veterinary Science and Animal Breeding. The... income from the Farm should go to the maintenance of the... Institute. The villages in the neighbourhood should be... visited by students and staff for rendering the inhabi... all the services expected of the Organization... students will acquire a knowledge of villa... cially the character of village folk... rejudices and their ways and...

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